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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries
Third session
Geneva, 25 September 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels
4. Impact of progressive liberalization and of service imports on the development of competitive services sectors, and the difficulties faced by developing countries which prevent them from increasing their participation in world trade in services
5. Progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme of the Standing Committee, with special emphasis on the preparation for UNCTAD IX
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with the arrangements for the Bureaux of the Standing Committees endorsed by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session (c.f. TD/B/39(1)/15, para. 512), the officers of the Standing Committees "should be elected in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure, taking into account the principles of equitable geographical distribution and rotation." In line with those arrangements, the Standing Committee is required to elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to constitute the Bureau of its second session.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the third session was approved by the Standing Committee at its second session.¹

A proposal for the organization of work of the third session is given in section III below.

Item 3: Ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels

The Standing Committee will have before it a report by the UNCTAD secretariat on "Ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels" (TD/B/CN.4/42). This report draws upon the contributions made in the Group of Experts, held in Madrid in January-February 1995 with the support of Fundación Española para la Promoción de la Información Automatizada (FUINCA). It focuses on those issues of particular relevance to the objective of increasing developing countries' participation in international trade in services.

Item 4: Impact of progressive liberalization and of service imports on the development of competitive services sectors, and the difficulties faced by developing countries which prevent them from increasing their participation in world trade in services

The Standing Committee will have before it the report entitled "Impact of progressive liberalization and of service imports on the development of competitive services sectors, and the difficulties faced by developing countries which prevent them from increasing their participation in world trade in services" (TD/B/CN.4/43). The report addresses those issues which are components of the dilemma faced by developing country policy-makers. That is (a) what steps should be taken to create an efficient services sector and attract investment to those sectors where such efficiency is deemed most essential; (b) how to ensure that this process is consistent with the strengthening of domestic services in sectors deemed strategic or those of potential export strengths; (c) how to enter world trade in services by overcoming current difficulties that prevent developing countries from expanding their participation in world trade in services, with emphasis on those aspects of the barriers to the movement of natural persons identified at the second session of the Committee.

Item 5: Progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme of the Standing Committee, with special emphasis on the preparation for UNCTAD IX

The Standing Committee will have before it the "Progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme of the Standing

¹ Report of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries on its second session (TD/B/41(1)/10 - TD/B/CN.4/40, Annex II).

Committee" (TD/B/CN.4/44), covering activities under items (2), (3), and (4) of the Work Programme. It has been prepared with a view to facilitating the tasks of the Committee, as well as to seeking guidance from the Committee with respect to the future orientation of work in the preparation for the IX Conference in the context of paragraph 76 of Cartagena Commitment.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

Paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee states that the Committee "shall submit periodic reports to the Trade and Development Board on its work". The report of the Standing Committee on its third session will be considered by the Trade and Development Board at its special session in December 1995.

III. TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday, 25 September	a.m.	Opening of the Session
		Item 3 of the provisional agenda
		"Ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels"
		Formal discussion on item 3
	p.m.	Item 4 of the provisional agenda
		"Impact of progressive liberalization and of service imports on the development of competitive services sectors, and the difficulties faced by developing countries which prevent them from increasing their participation in world trade in services"
		Formal Discussions on Item 4
Tuesday, 26 September	a.m.	Informal discussions on difficulties faced by developing countries that prevent their participation in world trade in services.
	p.m.	Continue the Informal discussions
Wednesday, 27 September	a.m.	Item 5 of the provisional agenda
		"Progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme"
		Formal discussions on the progress Report
	p.m.	Item 6 of the provisional agenda "Other Business"
Thursday, 28 September	a.m.	Informal Consultations on items 5 and 6

Friday, 29 September

p.m.

No meeting, to allow time for the preparation of the draft report.

a.m.

Idem

p.m.

Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board